

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01930 151736Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 MCT-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /079 W

----- 125930

R 151529Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8372

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1930

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: SDLP PROPOSALS TO OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY

REF: BELFAST 314

1. FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED ON BEHALF OF CONGEN BELFAST:
QUOTE: BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR
PARTY (SDLP) HAS RELEASED DETAILS OF A FIVE-POINT PACKAGE
OF PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN TALKS WITH OFFICIAL UNIONIST
PARTY REPRESENTATIVE (REFTEL). THE FOLLOWING FIVE POINTS
WOULD REPRESENT AMENDMENTS TO THE 1973 ACT:

- (A) FUTURE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE
ADDITIONAL POWERS, PARTICULARLY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR POLICING;
- (B) FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE TRANSFERRED
TO A "RESPECTED NORTHERN IRELAND FIGURE" TO BE
KNOWN AS LORD PRESIDENT;
- (C) CABINET SHOULD REFLECT THE PROPORTIONAL
STRENGTH OF THE PARTIES IN THE ASSEMBLY OR
PARLIAMENT WILLING TO FORM A GOVERNMENT;

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01930 151736Z

- (D) THESE ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO CONSTITUTIONAL

REVIEW AT THE END OF LIFE OF SECOND PARLIAMENT;
(E) THERE SHOULD BE A FREELY-NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH ON MATTERS OF COMMON
CONCERN.

2. POSITION OF SDLP PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS IS THAT IF
AGREEMENT REACHED ON FORM OF GOVERNMENT, PARTY WOULD CALL
FOR UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT
IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND WOULD ASK REPUBLIC TO DO SAME. BOTH
ALLIANCE AND UNIONIST PARTY NORTY NORTHERN IRELAND HAVE EXPRESSED
REGRET THAT OFFICIAL UNIONISTS UNILATERALLY TERMINATED
TALKS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF OVERWHELMING TESTIMONY OF
PEACE MARCHERS THAT COMMON PEOPLE WANT PROBLEMS RESOLVED.
REPUBLICAN CLUBS (ASSOCIATED WITH OFFICIAL IRA) HAS
CONDEMNED SDLP WILLINGNESS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH
UNIONISTS WITHOUT INCLUSION OF DEMANDS FOR LEGISLATIVE
GUARANTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN. SDLP LEADERSHIP BADLY
SHAKEN AND SOMEWHAT EMBITTERED BY UNIONIST DECISION
NOT TO RESUME TALKS. SDLP HAD HOPED TO WIDEN TALKS
BOTH IN PARTICIPATION AND SUBJECT MATTER IN BELIEF THAT THE
MORE UNIONISTS DISCUSSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS,
THE MORE AGREEMENT POSSIBLE ON MATTERS LESS CONTENTIOUS
THAN POWER SHARING. SDLP LEADERSHIP BELIEVES IT MUST
CONTINUE TALKING WITH OTHER SIDE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
FIRST, ORGANIZATIONAL CREDIBILITY WITH PUBLIC AND
SECOND, ORGANIZATIONAL COHESIVENESS IN FACE OF MORE
MILITANT MEMBERS. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE NOW THEY
BELIEVE BUT TO ABANDON MODERATION AND PUT PRESSURE ON
BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS. FIRST STAGE COULD BE
"BRITS OUT" CAMPAIGN IN WHICH THEY ACKNOWLEDGE RISK OF
BEING IDENTIFIED WITH SAME AIMS AS PROVISIONAL IRA.
SDLP APPROVES OF CURRENT PEACE MOVEMENT AS HELPING IN
LONG RUN TO ESTABLISH CLIMATE FOR POLITICAL
RECONCILIATION BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL ACT AS
POLITICAL CATALYST IN SHORT TERM. SDLP DEPLORES FAILURE
OF PERCEPTION AMONG OFFICIAL UNIONISTS THAT MOST
OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WANT ACCOMMODATION AND THAT MILITANTS,
IAN PAISLEY AND ERNEST BAIRD, HAVE BEEN "DEFEATED".
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 01930 151736Z

ACCORDING TO ONE SDLP LEADER, THE ULTIMATE FAILURE OF
THE TALKS LAY IN UNIONIST BELIEF THAT THEIR SIDE COULD
NOT MOVE AWAY FROM TERMS IN REPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION. THE SDLP, HE SAID, WAS EVEN WILLING TO
CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO SHARE POWER THROUGH
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES SO LONG AS THESE COMMITTEES
WERE ORGANIZED ON AMERICAN RATHER THAN BRITISH MODEL.
THE OFFICIAL UNIONIST REASON FOR REFUSING TO RESUME

TALKS -- THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ENCOURAGING
REACTION FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT -- IS SEEN AS
A "SMOKE SCREEN" BY THE SDLP. APPARENTLY NO BRITISH
REACTION HAD BEEN SOUGHT.

4. COMMENT: THE REPORTING OFFICER DOES NOT SEE HOW
SDLP COULD HAVE GONE FURTHER. IMPLICIT IN THEIR
PROPOSALS IS AGREEMENT TO AN ULSTER ENTITY AND SUPPORT
FOR THE SECURITY FORCES IMPLEMENTING THE SECURITY
POLICIES OF THAT ENTITY. IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO SEE
HOW EFFECTIVE PRESSURE COULD BE BROUGHT ON ANY
GOVERNMENT IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES
AND IN THE HISTORICAL LACK OF SUCCESS OF GOVERNMENTAL
INTERVENTIONS. REPORTING OFFICER VIEWS SDLP ANALYSIS
OF UNIONIST DISARRAY AS LARGELY WISHFUL THINKING
ARISING FROM SDLP ANXIETY. EVEN THE PERSONNEL IS
DISPERSING. GERRY FITT IS STILL AN M.P. AND
PADDY DEVLIN IS A TRADE-UNION CONSULTANT BUT JOHN HUME
WILL ABSENT HIMSELF TO HARVARD ON A FELLOWSHIP
NEXT MONTH AND AUSTIN CURRIE HAS TAKEN FULL-TIME
EMPLOYMENT. SURVIVAL OF THE SDLP UNDER DIRECT RULE AS
A PARTY WITHOUT A ROLE IS INCREASINGLY IN DOUBT.
END CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN. SPICER. END QUOTE
CURLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AGREEMENT DRAFT, PARTY LINE, LABOR UNIONS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN01930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0112
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760959/aaaabytc.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: 76 BELFAST 314
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SDLP PROPOSALS TO OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006